

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 to 6 as follows:

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- a'
1. (amended) A tracheal cannula for insertion into the trachea [(9)] following a tracheotomy, having a shaft [(2)] and a cuff [(3)] for blocking the tracheal cross-sectional area surrounding the shaft [(2)], characterized such that in the section of the shaft [(2)] lying above the cuff [(3)] a window [(4)] is constructed, such that this is covered by an air-permeable membrane [(5)].
2. (amended) Tracheal cannula based on [Claim] claim 1, characterized such that the membrane [(5)] is not permeable to water.
3. (amended) Tracheal cannula based on [Claim] claim [1 or] 2, characterized such that the membrane [(5)] consists essentially of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).
4. (amended) Tracheal cannula based on [Claim 3] claim 2, characterized such that the membrane [(5)] comprises [consists essentially of a fabric made of PTFE lacing] polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).
5. (amended) Tracheal cannula based on [one of the claims 1-4] claim 3, characterized such that the membrane comprises a fabric made of PTFE lacing [at the entrance (11) of the cannula (1) a valve is provided, which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation].

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6. (amended) Tracheal cannula based on [one of the claims 1 to 5] claim 4, characterized in [such] that the membrane consists of a fabric made of PTFE lacing [cuff (3) is connected via a line (7) to a pilot balloon (8) or the like for the inflation of the cuff (3) and for controlling the cuff pressure].

Please add new claims 7 through 20.

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7. Tracheal cannula based on claim 1, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

8. Tracheal cannula based on claim 2, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

9. Tracheal cannula based on claim 3, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

10. Tracheal cannula based on claim 4, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

11. Tracheal cannula based on claim 5, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

12. Tracheal cannula based on claim 6, characterized such that at the entrance of the cannula, a valve is provided which opens upon inhalation and closes upon exhalation.

13. Tracheal cannula based on claim 1, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

14. Tracheal cannula based on claim 2, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

15. Tracheal cannula based on claim 3, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

16. Tracheal cannula based on claim 4, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

17. Tracheal cannula based on claim 5, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

18. Tracheal cannula based on claim 6, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

19. Tracheal cannula based on claim 7, characterized such that the cuff is connected via a line to balloon means for the inflation of the cuff and for controlling the cuff pressure.

20. Tracheal cannula based on claim 13, wherein said balloon means comprises a pilot balloon.

In the Abstract:

Please cancel the Abstract and enter the Abstract of the Disclosure on the separate sheet enclosed herewith.

**A SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION INCORPORATING THE AMENDMENTS IS
ENCLOSED HEREWITH.**